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**Open Educational Resources in  
Malaysian Higher Learning Institutions**

# **Open Educational Resources in Malaysian Higher Learning Institutions**

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## **Foreword**

**Minister of Higher Education  
Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia**

*Assalamualaikum wbt, Greetings to all and Salam 1Malaysia*

The idea of Open Educational Resources (OER) was first introduced in 2002 during a UNESCO Forum on Open Courseware. Recently, in June 2012, the Paris Declaration was acclaimed at the World OER Congress attended by more than 250 people, with many governments represented including Malaysia. At the end of the Congress, governments pledge to take this declaration further within their capacities to among others; (i) foster awareness on the use of OER, (ii) reinforce the development of strategies and policies on OER, (iii) encourage the development and adaptation of OER in a variety of language and cultural contexts, (iv) encourage research on OER, and (iv) facilitate finding, retrieving and sharing of OER. In line with the National Higher Education Strategic Plan (PSPTN), in which widening access and enhancing equity as well as enculturation of lifelong learning are two of the seven strategic thrusts, Malaysia is committed to this OER movement.

With this regards, the effort to compile this edition entitled ‘Open Educational Resources in Malaysian Higher Learning Institutions’ by the Council of the Malaysian Public HEIs e-Learning Coordinators (MEIPTA) is very timely and commendable. The contents of this book demonstrate the initiatives and commitments of Malaysian higher education institutions in promoting lifelong learning using various OER platforms. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Professor Dr. Mohamed Amin Embi, Chairman of MEIPTA, for taking the leading role in making the publication of this important compilation a success.

In addition, I wish to express my gratitude to all the HEIs involved that have shared their OER initiatives in this compilation. Indeed, these efforts are very significant to MOHE in order to further formulate suitable strategies and policies on OER in line with the Ministry’s PSPTN strategic thrusts that also support the Paris Declaration.

Wassalam.

**DATO’ SERI MOHAMED KHALED BIN NORDIN**

## **Foreword**

**Secretary General  
Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia**

*Assalamualaikum wbt and Greetings to all*

I am thankful to Allah S.W.T that with His grace, I am given the opportunity to pen a few words in this edition entitled ‘Open Educational Resources in Malaysian Higher Learning Institutions’.

This book which is the compilation of Open Educational Resources (OER) initiatives implemented so far at various Malaysian HEIs is an indication of Malaysia’s commitment to the worldwide OER movement catalysed by the recently proclaimed Paris Declaration. In addition, I am certain that this book would contribute to the success of the implementation of one of the 21 Critical Agenda Projects (CAP), that is Lifelong Learning which is also one of the strategic thrusts of the National Higher Education Strategic Plan (PSTPN).

Lastly, I would like to congratulate MEIPTA for compiling this edition after having successfully published three earlier editions on e-Learning, Web 2.0 and Mobile Learning respectively. Such effort is very much commended and should be continued to promote the culture of knowledge sharing and dissemination among Malaysian institutions of higher learning.

Wassalam.

**DATUK AB. RAHIM BIN MD. NOOR**

## **Foreword**

**Director General  
Department of Higher Education  
Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia**

*Assalamualaikum wbt and Greetings to all*

Since its conception about a decade ago, the Open Educational Resources (OER) movement has reached many parts of the world including Malaysia. This is true when OER initiatives existed in some Malaysian higher learning institutions as early as 1998. Many universities in Malaysia including UTM, UKM, USM and OUM are now aggressively developing and sharing OER with the rest of the world.

The publication of this edition, ‘Open Educational Resources in Malaysian Higher Learning Institutions’ is very timely and in line with the aspiration of the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) to promote the acculturation of lifelong learning which is one of the strategic thrusts of the PSTPN.

With this regard, MEIPTA has been playing a key role in assisting MOHE in ensuring the success of the implementation of e-Learning and Lifelong Learning in all Malaysian HEIs. Hence, MEIPTA’s effort in documenting these OER initiatives undertaken so far by various higher learning institutions in Malaysia in this book is very much appreciated.

On behalf of MOHE, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the HEIs for their willingness to share their experiences related to OER. I hope, such efforts can be continued from time to time to make Malaysia a key player of OER in line with the recently proclaimed Paris Declaration.

Wassalam.

**PROF. DATO’ DR. RUJHAN BIN MUSTAFA**

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## Chapter 11

### OER@UNIMAS

*Hong Kian Sam, Gabriel Tonga Noweg, Fitri Suraya Mohamad, Narayanan Kulathuramaiyer, Norazila Abd Aziz, Soubakeavathi Rethinasamy, Shanthi Nadarajan & Latifah Loh Abdullah*

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The definition of Open Educational Resources (OER) by the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) forms the basis for the following discussions. According to COL:

*COL has adopted the widest definition of Open Educational Resources (OER) as 'materials offered freely and openly to use and adapt for teaching, learning, development and research'. While OER are mainly shareable in digital formats (both online and via offline formats such as DVD or CD-ROM), COL sees OER not just synonymous with online resources, online learning or e-learning, and within the development context COL is working, OER can also be in printable formats. (<http://www.col.org/resources/crsMaterials/Pages/OCW-OER.aspx>)*

Based on the above definition, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) is deemed as having just embarked on institutionalising some aspects of OER and the majority of the activities



related to OER in UNIMAS have taken place at the individual and faculties/institutes/centres initiatives. This chapter reports the current scenario of OER at UNIMAS from four aspects: institutional efforts, academics use of OER for enhancing teaching and learning, academics use of OER for self-development, and future institutional efforts by UNIMAS.

## Efforts by Faculties/Centres & Institutes

### OER @ The Faculty of Computer Science & Information Technology (FCSIT)

One of UNIMAS' earliest and continuing initiatives in OER is related to the Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology (FCSIT). FCSIT publishes the Journal of Information Technology in Asia (JITA). JITA is an international peer-reviewed online publication of original works by researchers in the Asia Pacific region, covering Information and Communication Technologies and its innovative applications. The journal serves as a platform to promote exchange of ideas with researchers around the world. FCSIT, in collaboration with other institutions in the JUCS Consortium, is also an active partner of the Journal of Universal Computer Science (J.UCS). J.UCS is a high-quality electronic publication that deals with all aspects of computer science (see Fig. 11.1 for JITA and Fig. 11.2 for J.UCS). J.UCS has been appearing monthly since 1995 and is thus one of the oldest electronic journals with uninterrupted publication since its foundation. Other than having features commonly associated with electronic journals, J.UCS also has some unique features that greatly assist academics in

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their search for relevant literature. For instance, the “Geographical Mashup” feature (see Fig. 11.2) enables academics to search for articles by regions and topics.



Figure 11.1: JITA and J.UCS

